



HARTFORD HUNDRED WEST  
THE

# PARISH MAGAZINE



*Bayford, Brickendon, Essendon,  
Little Berkhamsted & Ponsbourne.*

**February  
2024**

- **Save the Baker Arms p.12**
- **Situations Vacant. p.4**
- **2024 Subscription Rates. p.7**
- **Piano players needed. P.20**

Price  
**80p**



RSPB

**Greater Spotted Woodpecker. See page 23**

## DIOCESE OF ST. ALBANS



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**The Bishop of Hertford:** The Rt Revd Jane Mainwaring  
**Archdeacon:** The Venerable Janet Mackenzie .  
**Rural Dean:** The Revd. Mark Dunstan  
**Assistant Rural Dean:**

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Hartford Hundred Rectory,

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Telephone: 01707 875940 email - hartfordhundred@outlook.com

*Communion to the sick, Notice of Banns and of Marriage by arrangement with the Minister. See p4.*

*Please advise us of any cases of sickness so that prayers may be offered  
or where they may be of any assistance.*

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##### **PCC SECRETARY**

Ian Bailey, Tower House, Stockings Lane,  
Little Berkhamsted. SG13 8LW **01707 875971**

##### **TREASURER**

Christopher Nunn, Trewinnard House, Little  
Berkhamsted, SG13 8LS **07885 464055**

##### **ORGANIST**

#### **ST MARY - BAYFORD and HOLY CROSS and ST ALBAN - BRICKENDON**

##### **CHURCHWARDEN**

Mr C Taylor, Baybury House, 41 Ashdene  
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**01992 511041**

##### **PCC SECRETARY**

##### **TREASURER**

Mrs. L. Fitzjohn, Home Farm, Bayford Lane,  
Bayford

##### **ORGANIST**

Mrs V Haryott, Wellpond Cottage, Brickendon,  
SG13 8NU **01992 511575**

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##### **CHURCHWARDENS**

Paul Wombwell, 27 Rectory Close, Essendon,  
AL9 6HG **01707 273729**

Colin Rees, 2, Letty Green, Hertford,  
SG14 2NZ. **07540 351 530.**  
colin4444@yahoo.com.

##### **PCC SECRETARY**

Ms C Blackman, 42 High Road, Essendon,  
AL9 6HW 07831 341886  
casblackman@yahoo.com

##### **TREASURER**

Mr Nick Pickard, Cucumber Hall, Essendon,  
AL9 6JB 07779 325847

#### **ST MARY - PONSBOURNE**

##### **CHURCHWARDEN AND TREASURER**

Phil Ryan  
50, New Park Road, Newgate Street,  
SG13 8RF - **01707 876151**  
phil.ryan47@gmail.com

##### **ORGANIST**

Mr P Minchinton, 14 Byfield, Welwyn Garden  
City, AL8 7AL **01707 323742**

##### **PARISH MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Dr M E Wainwright. 12 Church Road, Little  
Berkhamsted, SG13 8LY. **01707 875970**  
parishmag@begesford.co.uk

**The Parish Magazine is also available online, free of charge.  
Google 'HHW Parish Magazine'.  
For the HHW web site Google 'Hartford Hundred West'.**

## Rector's Article.

Dear All

In the Anglican Community, Easter season starts with Lent, which is a retro of fasting, self-examination and denial. Moreover, Lent is also an opportunity to support the less fortunate. Easter is a time for reflection on the suffering and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ to save us.

The period is significant in the Anglican liturgical Calendar. The Lectionary summonses us to the events of the gospel – beginning with Ash Wednesday which ends in Holy Week. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, which honours Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. Then Maundy Thursday, a reminder of the last meal which Jesus ate with his disciples – the Eucharist (bread and wine) and washing of the disciple's feet. The next day is Good Friday, a day to remember Jesus's death on the cross. On Easter Sunday the Church celebrates Jesus's resurrection.

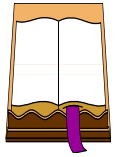
To mark the significance of the season the Church sets aside time of prayer and fellowship. Whereby reflections of how Jesus died for us is done collectively. While to the wider public the period of Christmas has become more famous and is celebrated, to Christians the Easter period is more significant as it is the time when we remember Christ's death and resurrection. It is for this reason that Christ was sent to the world so that mankind can be forgiven sins. The risen Christ gives hope to the

hopeless. Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 says "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me".

Prior to Easter there is a period of 40 days called Lent. According to the Church calendar Lent begins on Ash Wednesday up to almost 6 weeks before Easter Sunday. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, penitence, almsgiving, atonement and self-denial. Some Christians commit to fasting and giving up to some luxuries as a form of penitence. It is also a busy period where some families meet. A number of activities are held. In the wider community things like Easter eggs are sold. Easter is celebrated in diverse ways. It is a time of witnessing where souls are saved, and lives transformed. People focus on the hope we have of the risen Christ, reminding each other of the power of the cross.

Revd Theresa Musiwacho

# PARISH REGISTER



## Wedding

6<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Rowan Grace Mc KELLAR &  
Matthew Stephen CUMMINGS Little Berkhamsted

## Deaths

8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Sybil HOWLETT Essendon  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Janice WALKER Little Berkhamsted  
..... Graham MORRIS Essendon

## Prayer Share

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the



## Situation Vacant

For the past couple of years, Mike and Sue Wainwright have been carrying out the duties of General Distributor, in addition to Mike's principal role as Editor of our Parish Magazine. This was only intended to be an interim arrangement, until such time that another of our readers stepped forward to assume this role on a more permanent basis

To this end, we are looking for somebody to assume the role of General Distributor, with immediate effect. The monthly duties include (complete details will be provided):

- \* Liaising with our current printers, Victoire Press, for the delivery of c430 copies of the magazine to your home.
  - \* Splitting out the boxes of magazines between the required number for each of the six distributors.
  - \* Delivery to or collection by each of the six distributors of their allocation to their respective homes.
- Should you be interested in playing a

greater part in village life as we know it and wish to learn more about what is involved in this role, please feel free to contact in the first instance:

Peter Chivers, Hon Treasurer:  
peterchivers53@gmail.com or 01707 642622.

Mike Wainwright, Editor:  
parishmag@begesford.co.uk or on  
01707 875970.

## Bayford School has a vacancy for a Clerk to the Governors from March 2024

Approximately 9 meetings per year  
A fee per meeting can be paid  
Ability to take Minutes and carry out  
general clerking duties is required

Please call 01992 511551 for more  
information and to apply

## FEBRUARYCALENDAR

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February Fifth Sunday after The Epiphany

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Essendon

9:30 am, Family Service, Ponsbourne

11:00 am, Parish Communion, Brickendon

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February, Last Sunday after The Epiphany

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Bayford

11:00 am, Family Service, Little Berkhamsted

### Sunday 18<sup>st</sup> February, First Sunday of Lent

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Ponsbourne

9:30 am, Family Service, Essendon

11:00 pm, Family Service, Brickendon

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February, Second Sunday of Lent

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Little Berkhamsted

11:00 pm, Family Service, Bayford

### Sunday 3<sup>th</sup> March Third Sunday of Lent

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Essendon

9:30 am, Family Service, Ponsbourne

11:00 am, Parish Communion, Brickendon

### **Wednesdays**

9:30 am, Parish Communion, Essendon

10:00 am, Telephone Service Free

For joining instructions see  
*hartfordhundred@outlook.com*

### **Snow**

#### **BY FREDERICK SEIDEL**

Snow is what it does.

It falls and it stays and it goes.

It melts and it is here somewhere.

We all will get there.

---

### **Weddings, Baptisms and other matters.**

**Saturday Registration** is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month at 10.00 am to 11.30 am in Little Berkhamsted Church.

No appointment necessary

**Katie Kissed Me**  
**BY CHRISTINE LYNN MAHONEY**

Katie kissed me!  
Yuck, it's true!  
My face took on a greenish hue!  
My knees, like jelly, started shaking!  
Then my stomach started quaking!  
Slobber slithered down my cheek!  
My consciousness was growing weak!  
My ears were ringing, my head was spinning!  
But, all the while Kate was grinning!  
My heart was pounding through my shirt!  
My tongue felt like I just ate dirt!  
Though you may think I've lost my brain!  
I wished she'd kiss me once again!

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## 2024 Subscription Rates

As we enter a new calendar year, we are taking this opportunity to advise all of our current supporters of the subscription rates for 2024.

Increases in the cost of living never seem to be out of the news, adversely affecting all of us whichever way we turn. The parish magazine has not been exempted from such price increases, which has seen the costs of printing continue to rise year-on-year.

However, acknowledging that 'times are tough' and the need to remain competitive, we have decided to maintain next year's subscription rates at 2023 levels, except for those receiving the magazine through the post, which reflects recent significant increases introduced by Royal Mail:

**Annual subscription: £8.00**  
**Monthly rate: 80p**  
**Postal rate (2nd class): £27.00**

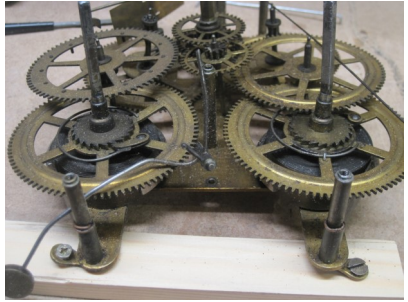
We believe that the magazine offers excellent value for money and will allow us to continue to financially support both local and national initiatives that are compatible with our objectives.

We trust we will be able to count upon your continued support next year, what with the magazine being such an integral part of the support network within our parishes.

PC

## My Lockdown Project.

Browsing through EBay after the lockdown was imposed, I came across a number of old clocks, or rather clock movements. These appeared to be made of brass and had a large number of cogs. (I now know that clock people call them wheels.). The one I bought for about £20, was, as you can see in the photo, very dirty and some of the arbors were bent.



When I was younger and cars were much less complicated, and purely mechanical, I used, as a matter of necessity, to spend the weekend fixing our car. So how difficult can it be?



It's purely mechanical and I have lots of time on my hands, surely I can figure it out! And, after all, it was only £20. So I took it apart, (very easy) and cleaned all the brass bits, and got rid of the rust. It turned out to be a Seth Thomas clock, made in the USA probably over a hundred years ago. So here it is in bits after cleaning, nice and shiny.



Eventually I had it all back together and amazingly it worked. To be honest, I put it together several times, before it ticked and struck the hours properly. It has a  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inch pendulum, which means its tick-tock is 1 second. Next it needed a case. Google showed me what it probably looked like; an American short-drop schoolhouse clock. I admit I made some parts of the case several times, especially the eight sided surround, originally in pine and then remade in oak.

The result, four years later is still on my office wall and still ticking away. It keeps quite good time, not quite to the standard of the quartz clocks we have become used to, but alright. MW



## Bayford's Knitters

We are currently making knitted mice for Battersea Cats Home. We meet at the Farmers Boy at 8pm on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. All welcome from complete beginners to expert knitters and crocheters. For more information call Caroline Fletcher on 07919 317212.



## GARDENING

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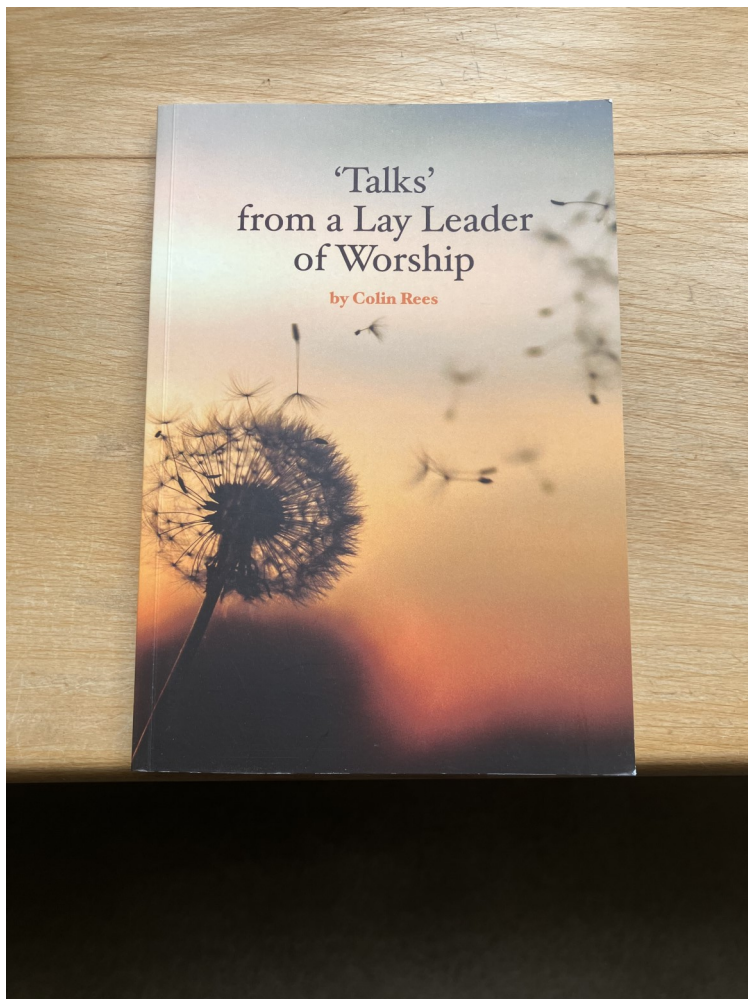
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**THANK YOU.**



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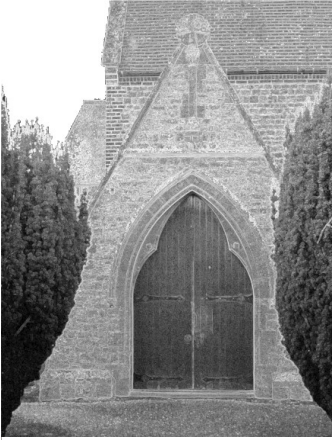
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**www.j-robinson.co.uk**



Now Winter Nights Enlarge  
BY THOMAS CAMPION (1567—1620)

Now winter nights enlarge  
The number of their hours;  
And clouds their storms discharge  
Upon the airy towers.  
Let now the chimneys blaze  
And cups o'erflow with wine,  
Let well-turned words amaze  
With harmony divine.  
Now yellow waxen lights  
Shall wait on honey love  
While youthful revels, masques, and  
courtly sights  
Sleep's leaden spells remove.

This time doth well dispense  
With lovers' long discourse;  
Much speech hath some defense,  
Though beauty no remorse.  
All do not all things well;  
Some measures comely tread,  
Some knotted riddles tell,  
Some poems smoothly read.  
The summer hath his joys,  
And winter his delights;  
Though love and all his pleasures are  
but toys,  
They shorten tedious nights.



# Bayford

## St. Mary's Church

Bayford Church is open Mondays, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

### **CHURCH CLEANING**

**11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February is Jane Honeyman and Liz Sitwell**

### **FLOWERS**

**11<sup>th</sup> February. Jackie Fulcher  
No flowers during Lent.**

### **BAYFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

To read the minutes and agendas just Google '*Bayford Parish Council*' and follow the link to '*Minutes*'.

### **The Baker Arms**

We have obtained a valuation for the Baker Arms and forwarded this to McM for their consideration. We have stated to EHDC that we intend to bid on the pub, in line with the rules for the ACV. We are in the process of setting up a CBS (Community Business Society) by which we will be able to obtain government funding for our bid.

### **The Old Playground.**

Gavin Nelson continues to update us on the progress as Bonnel Homes negotiates its way through the red tape of EHDC Planning Department.. Most of the overgrowth of vegetation has been cut down.

### **Meetings.**

**25<sup>th</sup> March, Monday**

Please check the web site.

Michael Wainwright (Dr),  
Chairman.

**pc@begesford.co.uk**

01707 875970.

*www.begesford.co.uk*

### **Friends of the Baker Arms**

### **Christmas Social Evening**

FOBA held an evening of fun and cheer on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** at Bayford Memorial Hall. It was an outstanding success and raised funds for the cause.

### **Roadmap to re-opening the Baker Arms**

With the pub now listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) we have informed AHDC that we intend to make a bid for the pub. We have obtained a professional commercial valuation and written to McM to get their response.. This may trigger a further meeting with Tom McMullen. We are starting the process to set up a

## The Baker Arms

Community Benefit Society and Community Interest Company which will allow us to receive funding from the government scheme.

### Friends in all the right places

We're not going it alone! An application has been lodged with the Plunkett Foundation, a charity that offers help and professional advice to groups in rural areas seeking to acquire and run community-owned businesses. FOBA have had a number of Zoom meetings with our Plunkett consultant, Mark Golding, which were extremely useful. We're also hearing from other community pub groups, like the Red Lion in Aston who have recently opened under community ownership. Some great people have offered to help – we'd love to hear from anyone else who has expertise in community engagement, the planning system, development and construction, fundraising and food and drink.

Please follow, like and share on social media for all the latest campaign news.

[www.friendsofbakerarms.org](http://www.friendsofbakerarms.org)  
[hello@fiendsofbakerarms.org](mailto:hello@fiendsofbakerarms.org)

### The Right of Way Issue.

In September (a few months after the closure of the pub), large planters were placed across the entry/exit to the car park to prevent vehicle access. Although a gap was left so walkers could still pass through, large signs were fixed to the planters stating 'No Public Right of Way'. The route via the car park provides the only safe way between Ashdene Road and Brickendon Lane because it avoids the

very dangerous bend in the road where there is no footpath. Therefore, it has always been much used by walkers, especially those going to the station, and also horse riders.

The 'blocking' of this route was discussed at a Parish Council meeting and, as the future of the pub and its land are uncertain and the signs use the legal wording to challenge the public's right to use the route, it was agreed that an application should be made to Hertfordshire County Council to record the route as a public right of way.

To claim a right of way through public use you need to provide evidence that it has been used openly (without force, secrecy or permission) for the last 20 years. We will be circulating 'User Evidence Forms' to Bayford residents to collect this information but if you live outside the village and have used this route regularly between 2003-2023 we would be interested to hear from you. Please contact Andrea Trendler on 01992 511588.





## Help your local hospice care for local people

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- [www.isabelhospice.org.uk](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk)  
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# Brickendon

## Chapel of the Holy Cross & St. Alban

For enquiries concerning the Chapel, please contact Virginia Haryott 01992 511575 or email [wellpondharyott@gmail.com](mailto:wellpondharyott@gmail.com)

### Services

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February - Parish Communion at 11.0am  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Family Service at 11.00am  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Parish Communion at 11.00am

### Flowers

Janet Burger

LENT NO FLOWERS

### February

2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>

16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Cleaning

Virginia Haryott

Janie Corbisiero

### Brickendon Clubs:

We have some excellent clubs in Brickendon which are always happy to welcome new members.

**Book Club** - meets every first Tuesday of the month at 8pm, contact **Andrea Trendler for venue - 01992 511588**

**Pilates** - Every Tuesday morning in Fanshaws Room (the village hall) at 9.15am, to register contact **Harriet Barton, 07944 500504 or [pilateswithharriet@hotmail.com](mailto:pilateswithharriet@hotmail.com)**

### Fanshaws Room

(the Village Hall)

The Village Hall in Brickendon is a lovely space for meetings, children's parties and other gatherings. More details and photos can be found on the village website [www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk](http://www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk)

Hire charge for non-residents is £15 per hour, £10 per hour for residents of Brickendon Liberty parish.

Phone **01992 511551** for further information or to make a booking.



## Tennis Courts.

The fee for hire is still £5 per court per hour for everyone. Last summer the courts and pavilion were renovated and are in excellent condition.

For further information and to book see Brickendon website ([www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk](http://www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk))  
Brenda Lambie



## Brickendon Petanque Boules Club

### Play at The Farmer's Boy

Winter Play Times  
Sunday 10am - 12 noon  
Tuesday 5.30 - 7pm  
Thursday 10am - 12 noon

Further information and enquiries  
Contact Janet 01992 511515



## Oak Processionary Moths

We have had an expert look at the problem in the Churchyard and at his recommendation the lower branches of the oaks have been cut off, and the ropes taken away. We will now wait until late Spring to monitor the trees when the moths start to breed.



## Parish Council

### Meetings

Meetings are normally held in the Fanshaws Room at 7.30pm and all parishioners are welcome to attend and to raise any issues of concern. Agendas are posted on noticeboards at least 3 days before the meeting.

Parish Clerk: Laura Brooks-Payne  
Brickendon Liberty Parish Council  
PO BOX 81, Knebworth, SG3 6YZ

Email [clerk@brickendon-liberty.org.uk](mailto:clerk@brickendon-liberty.org.uk)  
Mobile 07803 906291

**Minutes:** Brickendon website  
[www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk](http://www.brickendon-liberty.org.uk) for .

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Both our **Beaver Colony** (6-8 years) and **Cub Pack** (8-11 years) have resumed "normal" activities including hiking, camping and learning new skills and having great fun.

The numbers in both Sections are growing and we would love to welcome new members. We would also be really happy to have more adult helpers and leaders to support this. Beavers meet on Thursday and Cubs on Monday.

Meetings are based at our Headquarters in Northaw Village.

To find out more contact Gordon Marshall at

[gordon.marshall@pscouts.org.uk](mailto:gordon.marshall@pscouts.org.uk)



## Are you applying for a Reception Class place in September?

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Essendon

# Essendon, Woodhill, Wild Hill & Woodside

St. Mary the Virgin



Flower Arrangers February

**SIAN AND JOHN HACKETT AND  
JUDY RENNIE**



**February Services. See page 5.**

**Can you help us out at services now  
and then please?**

The group of 5 churches is charged every month in finding organists and good piano and keyboard players to stand in for us when we are in need.

We are preparing a list of people to include and ask anyone in the Group area, if they wish, to have their name and phone number included. We also have top flight organists prepared to give 'Transition organ tuition' to skilled and capable piano players at low hourly rates. Email me if interested.

Please  
email [colin4444@yahoo.co](mailto:colin4444@yahoo.co).

**All Sorts Dementia Group.**

Social and activity group for people with mild to moderate dementia starting at Essendon Village Hall every Wednesday 10.30am till 3pm.

Spaces limited so please call

**01279 498938** or

email [allsortsdg@gmail.com](mailto:allsortsdg@gmail.com)

for more information.

Website: [www.allsortsdg.co.uk](http://www.allsortsdg.co.uk)



## ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL

### ALL MEETINGS AT

#### ESSENDON VILLAGE HALL, @ 7PM

Agendas will be available on the PC website,

(<https://www.essendonpc.org.uk/>) and on noticeboards in the village.

Minutes of all meetings are also available on the website.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings.

Clerk: Nerine Chalmers  
essendonparishcouncil@gmail.com

## ESSENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Residents.

I am delighted to introduce myself as the newly appointed clerk of Essendon Parish Council. I have been in my current job as Senior Finance and Administrative Officer in a primary school for over 10 years and intend to utilise my broad experience this role has given me and to help and support your dedicated team of councillors carry out their job as your representatives. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the warm welcome and encouraging comments I have received so far.

Cllr. Ian Venebles is pleased to report that the Christmas tree lighting evening, with carols, mince pies and mulled wine was a resounding success. Thank you to everyone who

## Essendon Cricket Club

We are looking for a scorer ideally Saturday and Sunday, but if someone only wanted to do Saturdays or Sundays that works. Saturday is the day we are struggling with as having your own scorer in a league game is very important. If anyone is interested please contact me.

**Ian Venables 07764777343**  
Essendon CC Captain.

## Bible Study

All are welcome.

More information and dates from  
**[mckellartrish@gmail.com](mailto:mckellartrish@gmail.com)**

helped make this festive event so enjoyable.

Looking ahead, I want to encourage all residents to actively participate in the workings of the Parish Council, Your presence at council meetings gives you the opportunity to stay informed about local initiatives.

Our upcoming council meetings are scheduled for the Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, Meetings are all held at Essendon Village Hall, starting at 7pm and lasting for approximately 1 hour.

I look forward to working alongside you all to make Essendon Parish an even better place to live.

Kind regards  
Caroline Chapple  
Parish Council Clerk.

## ESSENDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The February meeting of W.I. will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday **21<sup>st</sup> February** at 8.00 pm. The talk will be about Mercy Ships, an amazing charity who operate the world's largest non-government hospital ship.



Guests always very welcome. Please call Lyn McCash 07971 909540 for more details"

### **GARDENING FEBRUARY**

Our present climate seems to be becoming more and more varied and we must somehow adjust to what now seem our rather out of date ideas that we have gone along with for so long if we are to work with this. We must plan the months ahead accordingly but without spoiling our enjoyment!

February has always been the month for much of our regular pruning so that we keep our trees and shrubs in some sort of order. Look at your fruit trees and cut back branches that are crossing or rubbing and remove straggly branches back to a good bud to encourage regrowth and reduce any remaining growth by a third. Cut back autumn-fruiting raspberries to the ground and clear up all the bits. You can lightly prune large-flowered Clematis remembering that 'if it usually flowers before June, don't prune' but if it flowers later carefully cut it back to 15-30cm from the ground. Prune your bush and shrub roses, again removing any damaged or 'cross over' branches. Shrubs such as Buddleia, Salix and Russian Sage can also be treated in this way –the harder they are carefully pruned the more they will flower. Always use sharp tools for pruning and use garden compost to mulch plants afterwards leaving a gap round the stem base. Weed around the base of trees and pull off any suckers. Snowdrops seem to be at their very best in those early weeks of February and they spread both by seed and division – clumps should be lifted and carefully split up and re-planted every few years and, unusually for most bulbs, they are at their happiest in damp soil. Get the onion sets into the ground as soon as the soil is ready and you can work a fine tilth Looking ahead, place cloches over strawberries to bring them into flower early and continue to enjoy your gardens whether they are large or small! Germander Speedwell

## Essendon Nature Notes

One of the most evocative sounds in nature is not a song but a drum and February is an excellent time of year to hear it. One of our three woodpeckers, the great-spotted, will this month be starting to proclaim its territory by 'drumming' against a dead branch of an old tree. This sound is one of such difference, hypnotic and perfectly rhythmic, that it always stops you in your tracks. You hope it will repeat the performance...and there it goes again. The bird uses its powerful beak to strike the wood at an incredible twenty beats a second. Shock absorbers in the skull stop it doing itself harm from its head-banging habit.

I admired one in the garden today bossing the lower orders at the feeders but it has been a regular rather than constant visitor over the last few months - another warm winter may have made it less dependent on our largesse. However the hollow limbs of the fallen oak in our neighbouring field will be used to stake its claim throughout the spring and hearing it reverberate will lift the spirits as a herald of the summer to come. Another

good spot is the small copse in front of Essendon school. Our woodlands are rarely managed as intensively as they once were and the old dying trees left standing are helping the percussion section of the orchestra.

The great-spotted woodpecker is certainly not a hard bird to recognise from its distinctive black and white pied coloration, red underneath the tail and the male's dashing red patch on the nape. They also have a very characteristic undulating flight so you really can't miss them. I like its local folk name, 'woodnacker', long since fallen into disuse. Perhaps the schoolchildren will give it a new name when they look up with a start, nudge their classmates and wonder what on earth they have just heard.

DC

### **The Village Hall.**

Tel: 07442 499601

email:

[essendonvillagehall@hotmail.com](mailto:essendonvillagehall@hotmail.com)

[facebook.com/essendonvillagehall](https://www.facebook.com/essendonvillagehall)

[essendonvillagehall.wixsite.com/](http://essendonvillagehall.wixsite.com/)

[essendonvillagehall](http://essendonvillagehall)

### **Tennis Courts**

The prices are £40 family, £25 individual and £15 for a junior. New members always welcome.

To join the club or any questions please contact,

**Nicki Whitelaw 07946300512**

**[nicki.whitelaw@sky.com](mailto:nicki.whitelaw@sky.com)**

Essendon Tennis Club Committee

## Essendon Churchwarden

Essendon church wardens would like to thank villagers **Gerald Plumb** for his origination of the calendars sold in aid of St Marys, and his sister **Rita Pallet**, a dedicated and successful sales person. This was entirely their initiative and contributed some £600 to church funds for which we are very grateful, thank you both.

**Any Piano players around - see page 20.**

### CHURCHYARD RULES.

**We are especially conscious at this time of year that people are tending graves and memorial areas in our churchyards.**

As churchwardens, we are required by the Bishop of St Albans to ensure that regulations applying to churchyards and memorial gardens are followed.

These in particular, apply to artificial or non natural flowers, toys, reindeer, lights and plaques together with glass jars and vases which are not permitted on safety grounds. The regulations also cover wreaths.

While we would be reluctant to do so, we will as necessary, remove any items which do contravene the regulations. We are always pleased to explain the regulations which, are posted on our notice board in the porch.

Rector and churchwardens.



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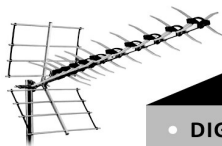
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[Stevegibson2013@gmail.com](mailto:Stevegibson2013@gmail.com)

The advertisement for Steve Gibson, a painter and decorator, features a background image of a paintbrush with a dark handle and bristles, resting on a light-colored surface with a brushstroke. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout. The name "Steve Gibson" is prominently displayed at the top right, followed by his profession. Contact information for home and mobile phones is provided. A circular icon of a paintbrush is used as a visual element. The text "Fully insured" and "References available" is placed below the contact details. The email address "Stevegibson2013@gmail.com" is at the bottom right. The phrase "Internal decorating only" is located in the bottom left corner.

# Little Berkhamsted, Howe Green & Epping Green St. Andrew



## CHURCH CLEANING

9/10<sup>th</sup>. Jeff and Louise Robinson  
23/24<sup>th</sup>. Margery Bailey

## Services

Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> Family Service 11am  
Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> Parish Communion 9.30am

## The Church is open every day.

So, pop in and see what's going on.  
Baby group on Tuesdays 10-11.30.  
Wellbeing group Wednesdays 10-11.

We have a good section of books that are free. And you're welcome to sit for a while.

**Happy St Valentine's Day enjoy the day.**

## St Andrew's Church.

Can you HELP with our beautiful church? We are looking for help with cleaning the church and help tidying up around the church yard.

Contact: Sandie Ash 01707875221



## Baby Group

A big thank you to Jade who arranged a lovely happy Christmas party for the children and their family. The best bit was a surprise visit from Father Christmas giving out small gifts.

Christmas fundraising this year was for:

Hertford 'Young Homeless' we raised £250.00. Thank you to everyone who joined in our Christmas services.



## Community Choir

We really enjoyed our Christmas services including the community choir who sang the delightful carol Sheep, Sheep. Thank you to Katie Neilson who organized the choir.

**James with Father Christmas.**



## Pet Service

What a wonderful Pet Service with 30 people and most of them bringing their dogs and children. Thank you, Trish, it was uplifting.

## News from Little Berkhamsted Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024** at 7.30pm in the village hall. The agenda is published on the website and village noticeboard the week before the meeting and residents are welcome to send questions and comments to the clerk beforehand, clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk or attend the meeting and ask in person.



### East Herts Lottery

Either sign up for the East Herts weekly draw (prizes from £25 up to a £25,000 jackpot) or buy top-up Super Draw-only tickets.

Volunteers needed to arrange the village's commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the D Day landings.

Please contact Penny :  
07956 312168

### The Community Café

This is held every Friday morning in the Cricket and Community Pavilion from 10.00am to 12.00. For just £1 come and enjoy a tea or coffee, often with delicious homemade cake and good conversation with your friends and neighbours.

Everyone welcome!

You can also invite friends and family using the new **Refer a Friend process**. For every person that signs up using their unique referral link, you'll BOTH get an entry into the **exclusive £200 prize draw!**

To register just go to:  
[www.easthertslottery.co.uk/  
support/little-berkhamsted-cricket-  
and-community](http://www.easthertslottery.co.uk/support/little-berkhamsted-cricket-and-community)

The funds raised are going towards the refurbishment of the village hall.

Thank you for your support and good luck with your numbers!

## Little Berkhamsted Community Facilities for Hire



**The Village Hall** has disabled access and toilet, a fully equipped kitchen for any refreshment needs, internet access and projector equipment.



**The cricket and community pavilion** has a fully equipped kitchen, bar area, changing rooms and shower facilities.

Hire Charges (per hour): Little Berkhamsted Resident: **£12** Other: **£17**

For further details contact: Sandie Ash 01707 875221  
or [clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:clerk@littleberkhamsted.org.uk)



## Master Art Workshops

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**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March** - Epping Golf Club, **Mandala Dotting** with Angelique Samadhi 10-1pm £50

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – Dutch Marketplace, **Spring Flowers Watercolour** with Deana Kim Page 10-1pm £55 inc lunch

## Beginners Welcome

To book visit <http://www.masterartworkshops.com> or email [suewilliams021@aol.com](mailto:suewilliams021@aol.com)

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### St Elizabeth's School and College cares for children and young adults with special needs.

St Elizabeth's are delighted to say that our annual **Apple Day** will be returning this year, on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023**. With over 3-acres of ancient orchard, we need all the help we can get to pick and juice our delicious apples ready to make our famous apple juice. In return, we will be offering a wide range of entertainment, refreshments and a chance to browse lots of local stalls and products.

The day is always a firm favourite with families, as there is something for everyone! There will be a chance to join in with fun and games for the little ones, as well as the opportunity to pick apples as a family and either donate them back to us, or buy them to make some goodies of your own.

Come and join us between 11-3pm! For further information, please email [fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk)



## Are you looking for HR support you can count on?

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Preventing People Problems

### Ballad of Birmingham

BY DUDLEY RANDALL

(On the bombing of a church in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963)

"Mother dear, may I go downtown  
Instead of out to play,  
And march the streets of Birmingham  
In a Freedom March today?"

"No, baby, no, you may not go,  
For the dogs are fierce and wild,  
And clubs and hoses, guns and jails  
Aren't good for a little child."

"But, mother, I won't be alone.  
Other children will go with me,  
And march the streets of Birmingham  
To make our country free."

"No, baby, no, you may not go,  
For I fear those guns will fire.  
But you may go to church instead  
And sing in the children's choir."

She has combed and brushed her  
night-dark hair,  
And bathed rose petal sweet,  
And drawn white gloves on her small  
brown hands,  
And white shoes on her feet.

The mother smiled to know her child  
Was in the sacred place,  
But that smile was the last smile  
To come upon her face.

For when she heard the explosion,  
Her eyes grew wet and wild.  
She raced through the streets of  
Birmingham  
Calling for her child.

She clawed through bits of glass and  
brick,  
Then lifted out a shoe.  
"O, here's the shoe my baby wore,  
But, baby, where are you?"



# Newgate Street

Ponsbourne St. Mary

## Village Coffee

Morning

5<sup>th</sup> February

10am to 12 noon

at

The Crown

## Church Open

for

prayer and quiet contemplation,  
every **Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30.**

## VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

All bookings can now be made through the Village website

[www.newgatestreet.org/](http://www.newgatestreet.org/)

Follow the link to Hall Rental and Book the Hall .

## Book Exchange.

A **BIG THANK YOU** for the donation from the **BOOK EXCHANGE** which continues to run at the **Post Office** in Newgate Street Village Hall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings .



## What's On in Newgate Street

**Table Tennis:** Tuesday evenings 7.30 - 9.30pm in the Village Hall. £1 pay and play

**Tennis** - Tuesday mornings 9.30-10.30am Village Courts. Term time only. Contact 07710 507 215

**Book Swap** - Pre read books to buy £1 or swap 50p, in the Village Hall Post Office Tuesday & Thursday mornings.

**Village Chat** - WhatsApp group for people living in the village. To join the group contact 07710 507 215

**Village Pub Social** - 8pm the second Friday of every month in either The Crown or The Coach & Horses Pubs, come along to meet friends and make new ones. See Village Chat WhatsApp group or Village website for details.

### Post Office.

A small Post Office is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the village hall.



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## The People, Yes BY CARL SANDBURG

Lincoln?  
He was a mystery in smoke and flags  
Saying yes to the smoke, yes to the  
flags,  
Yes to the paradoxes of democracy,  
Yes to the hopes of government  
Of the people by the people for the  
people,  
No to debauchery of the public mind,  
No to personal malice nursed and fed,  
Yes to the Constitution when a help,  
No to the Constitution when a  
hindrance  
Yes to man as a struggler amid  
illusions,  
Each man fated to answer for himself:  
Which of the faiths and illusions of

mankind  
Must I choose for my own sustaining  
light  
To bring me beyond the present  
wilderness?

Lincoln? Was he a poet?  
And did he write verses?  
"I have not willingly planted a thorn  
in any man's bosom."  
I shall do nothing through malice:  
what  
I deal with is too vast for malice."

Death was in the air.  
So was birth.

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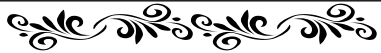
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or come along to  
The Methodist Church,  
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City  
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either listen or join in

Please mention HHW Parish Magazine when responding to an advert.



Interior

-J C-

Exterior

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1st Birch Green Brownies - Monday 6.30pm - 7.45pm

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**Copy for the magazine, please by the**

**12<sup>th</sup> of each month,**

**or earlier if possible.**

**Please note this is the deadline for copy and not the target date.**

**Subscription rates: 80p per copy or £8 for a year.**

**Postal rates: 2<sup>nd</sup> class only £21.00**

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